

REMARKS

We write in response to the Official Action dated 10 April 2002.

The specification has been amended at pages 1 to replace docket number with US serial numbers. Please note that twelve docket numbers of applications that were not simultaneously filed the present application have been deleted.

The applicant wishes to amend the pending claims and a revised set of claims 60 onwards is attached.

The examiner has raised a number of clarity issues against claims 75, 79 and 90 and these claims are amended as suggested by the examiner.

The examiner has rejected claims 60, 61, 63 and 80 as being anticipated by Lazzouni et al (US 5, 661, 506) and the remaining claims as being unpatentable in view of the combination of Lazzouni et al and Shamir (US 5, 568, 555).

Claim 60 has been amended so as to define the coded data as *"being comprised of a plurality of codewords"* and the step of disposing the coded data on the surface as disposing the coded data *"in the form of a plurality of sets of symbols, each set of symbols corresponding to a one of the plurality of codewords"*. Further the disposing step is further defined as including *"interleaving on the surface the symbols of each set with at least one symbol of at least another set of the plurality of sets of symbols"*.

Support for these amendments is found at section 1.2.2 - Tag Data Encoding at page 15.

The Lazzouni citation relied upon by the examiner does not appear to disclose the features referred to above. The Shamir citation was raised by the examiner as a disclosure of a "tag". However, the examiner appears to have misunderstood the meaning of the "tag" as used in the specification and the claims. Referring to the preferred embodiments of the invention, the coded data is disposed on the surface in a series of discrete objects that are called "tags", such as the object shown in figure 5. The "tags" are part of the coded data and are not separate from the coded data in the preferred embodiments. The term "tag" as used in the present specification is not intended to include a sticky label. The Shamir reference the examiner has raised has sticky labels on which coded data is disposed and the examiner appears to be equating the sticky labels of Shamir with the tags of the present claims. In

view of this misinterpretation, it is submitted that the rejections on the basis of the combination of Lazzouni and Shamir are not appropriate.

The examiner has indicated a belief that Lazzouni discloses a pixel that encodes pixel orientation information. Whilst this may appear to be the case, it is submitted that Lazzouni's teaching is incorrect. Referring to figures 8 & 9 of the Lazzouni specification, there is disclosed a pixel 100 that has a series of "bit locations" 102, 104, 106. As stated at column 7 lines 35 to 37, *"Each bit location ...contains a single binary bit represented by the presence or absence of an infra red ink"*. At column 8 lines 27 and 28 it is stated that *"the blank corner is encoding square 5"*. Since a bit location may be blank, there is no way that the encoding square 5 can be distinguished from a bit location in the other three corners that has no ink. As such one cannot determine the orientation of the pixel 100 only by detecting a blank corner.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:



KIA SILVERBROOK

C/o: Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd
393 Darling Street
Balmain NSW 2041, Australia

Email: kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com

Telephone: +612 9818 6633

Facsimile: +61 2 9818 6711

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

The section beginning at page 1, lines 14-30 to be amended as follows:

~~NPA001US, NPA002US, NPA003US, NPA004US, NPA005US, NPA006US,
NPA007US, NPA008US, NPA009US, NPA010US, NPA012US, NPA016US,
NPA017US, NPA018US, NPA019US, NPA020US, NPA021US, NPA030US,
NPA035US, NPA048US, NPA050US, NPA051US, NPA052US, NPA075US,
NPB001US, NPB002US, NPK002US, NPK003US, NPK004US, NPK005US,
NPK007US, NPM001US, NPM002US, NPM003US, NPM004US, NPN001US,
NPN002US, NPN003US, NPP001US, NPP002US, NPP003US, NPP005US,
NPP006US, NPP007US, NPP008US, NPP016US, NPP017US, NPP018US,
NPP019US, NPS001US, NPS003US, NPS020US, NPT001US, NPT002US,
NPT003US, NPT004US, NPX001US, NPX003US, NPX008US, NPX011US,
NPX014US, NPX016US, NPX020US, NPX022US, IJ52US, IJM52US, MJ10US,
MJ11US, MJ12US, MJ13US, MJ14US, MJ15US, MJ34US, MJ47US, MJ52US,
MJ58US, MJ62US, MJ63US, PAK04US, PAK05US, PAK06US, PAK07US,
PAK08US, PEC01US, PEC02US.~~

~~The disclosures of these co-pending applications are incorporated herein by cross-reference.~~

~~Each application is temporarily identified by its docket number. This will be replaced by the
corresponding USSN when available.~~

09/575,197,	09/575,195,	09/575,159,	09/575,132,
09/575,123,	09/575,148,	09/575,130,	09/575,165,
09/575,153,	09/575,118,	09/575,131,	09/575,116,
09/575,144,	09/575,139,	09/575,186,	09/575,185,
09/575,191,	09/575,145,	09/575,192,	09/575,181,
09/575,193,	09/575,156,	09/575,183,	09/575,160,
09/575,150,	09/575,169,	09/575,184,	09/575,128,
09/575,180,	09/575,149,	09/575,179,	09/575,187,
09/575,155,	09/575,133,	09/575,143,	09/575,196,
09/575,198,	09/575,178,	09/575,164,	09/575,146,
09/575,174,	09/575,163,	09/575,168,	09/575,154,
09/575,129,	09/575,124,	09/575,188,	09/575,189,
09/575,162,	09/575,172,	09/575,170,	09/575,171,
09/575,161,	09/575,141,	09/575,125,	09/575,142,
09/575,140,	09/575,190,	09/575,138,	09/575,126,
09/575,127,	09/575,158,	09/575,117,	09/575,147,
09/575,152,	09/575,176,	09/575,115,	09/575,114,
09/575,113,	09/575,112,	09/575,111,	09/575,108,
09/575,109,			

~~The disclosures of these co-pending applications are incorporated herein by cross-reference.-~~

In the claims:

Claims 60, 75, 79 and 90 have been amended as follows:

60. (Amended) A method of producing a surface having a region, the method including the steps of:

(a) defining coded data, the coded data being comprised of a plurality of codewords and being indicative of:

a region identity associated with the region; and

a plurality of points within the region;

(b) disposing the coded data within a region on the surface in the form of a plurality of sets of symbols, each set of symbols corresponding to a one of the plurality of codewords and

wherein the step of disposing includes interleaving on the surface the symbols of each set with at least one symbol of at least another set of the plurality of sets of symbols.

75. (Amended) A method according to claim 62, wherein step (b) includes the sub-step of disposing the tags on the surface such that the relative spacing of ~~their~~ tag centres is less than about 12mm.

79. (Amended) A method according to claim 62, wherein the tags are substantially uniformly distributed within the region.

90. (Amended) A method according to claim 88, wherein the at least one orientation feature is skewed along ~~its~~ a major axis.